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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/991,883	11/26/2001	Glenn Bingham	08360.1556-01	4179

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EXAMINER

SMITH, TRACI L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/991,883

Applicant(s)

BINGHAM ET AL.

Examiner

Traci L. Smith

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on April 6, 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to papers filed on April 6, 2005.
2. Claims 21, 22 and 24 have been amended.
3. Claims 27-38 have been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Business Travel News, p. 1, Sept. 6, 1993 entitled 'Megas at a Cross roads'. Hereinafter referred to as Megas.

6. As to claims 21-26 Business Traveler teaches a PC product that optimizes site selection by looking at:

7. attendees point of origin
8. –land arrangements
9. –meal costs
10. –ranking sites by cost

11. Although Business traveler doesn't explicitly teach us receiving the date range it is inherent that information has to be received in order to create a meeting plan due to identifying the availability of a meeting site.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. Claims 27-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Business Travel News, p. 1, Sept. 6, 1993 entitled 'Megas at a Cross roads'.as applied to claims 25-26 above, and further in view o; retrieved from the wayback machine June 7, 2005 any linkage January 31, 1998. Hereinafter, referred to Eventsource.

13. As to claims 27-30 Megas teaches a system for event planning including meal costs(Pg 2 ¶8). However, Megas fails to explicitly teach meeting space cost. Eventsource teaches receiving bids based from input information consisting of meeting place requirements. (Pg. 9 3rd chart.) It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to combine the teaches of Eventsource with Megas so as to have an idea of what different meeting spaces will cost and availability.

14. As to claims 31-32 Megas teaches a for event planning and lodging reservations(Pg. 2 ¶ 6). However, Megas fails to teach choosing amenities preferred. Eventsource teaches an event planning system allowing the user to select "important Amenities and services". (Pg. 9 1st chart). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Eventsource with Megas so as to present the user with facilities that are capable of meeting their particular needs for the event.

15. As to claims 33-37 Megas teachings an event planning system based on location, land arrangements and meals. However, Megas fails to teach "optimized" costs. Eventsource teaches an event planning system that allows the user to input alternative dates to receive bids on dates that might be less expensive.(Pg. 8 Chart 2).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Eventsource with Megas so as to allow the user the option to hold their event in a more cost effective time.

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments filed April 6, 1005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

17. Applicant argues that the reference cited fails to teach specific date ranges and ranking cost be all-inclusive. Examiner again notes that it would be inherent to one skilled in the art that it is necessary to put in the dates desired in order to get an accurate cost for the event. As to the ranking not being all inclusive the examiner notes Pg. 2 ¶ 8 in which the article discusses combined billing and travel data in one email report., again this is read to include all the cost involved in the travel that are sent in the ranked order to the user.

18. As to applicants arguments that the prior art fails to teach including travel costs into the "inclusive" cost that is ranked. Examiner again points to Pg 2 ¶ 6-8 for the same reasons as stated above the cost is read to include travel cost reservations and lodging.

19. As to applicants arguments that the meeting facilities are not selected by geographic location and/or preference. As the claim is written the prior art is only required to teach one of those two options. However, examiner believes the art can be read to include both limitations. The fact that they are considering points of origin this can be considered a preference and a geographic location. The point of the Megas

system is to plan a cost-effective event for attendees. By knowing the points of origins they can chose facilities that best fit the needs of all attendees.

20. As to applicants arguments for rejection of claims 23, 25 and 26 that the prior art fails to teach defnining minimum requirements. Examiner notes that what exactly is required to "define" minimum is claimed broadly which can be interpreted as simply inputting the attendees point of origin as a minimum requirement.

Conclusion

21. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

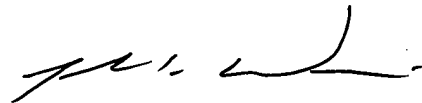
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Traci L. Smith whose telephone number is 572-272-6809. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:00 am-4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 571-272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

tls



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